

Washington, DC - Continuing her effort to address the growing needs of young people in our communities, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez (CA-39), today announced that she has successfully secured \$150,000 for the Whittier Boys & Girls Club After-School Program in Los Nietos. The Omnibus Appropriations bill (H.R. 4818) passed the U.S. House of Representatives on November 20 by a vote of 344- to- 51, and President Bush is expected to sign it into law in the near future.

“Boys and Girls Clubs are a very important part of the community. They provide safe, drug-free, supervised and cost-effective after-school, weekend and summer havens for our children and families,” said Congresswoman Linda Sánchez.

The Whittier Boys & Girls Club has developed an after-school recreation and education program for middle school children to reduce the risk of youth criminal activity, improve academic performance, and reduce alcohol abuse while inspiring young people to realize their full potential. Based on a national model, the Whittier Boys & Girls Club after-school program encourages healthy attitudes and lifestyles through sports leagues, self-esteem enhancement workshops, character and leadership development programs, homework assistance, and recreational activities.

“I am also committed to making sure that every child has a safe and enriching place to go after-school. Parents across the district have told me how difficult it is to care for their children during the afternoon and early evening hours while they are at work. This funding will help many families who do not have access to affordable, quality care after-school,” continued Sanchez.

The program will be implemented at Katherine Edwards Middle School, where a majority of the students come from working families. Programs that promote health and nutrition will be a priority.

Earlier this year, the Whittier Boys and Girls Club discussed an infusion of funding with the Congresswoman so that they could keep the club open. The federal funds secured by Sánchez will enable the Boys and Girls Club to keep the Los Nietos program open for at least three additional years.

“The more kids we can reach, and the more people we can get involved, the greater an impact this program is going to have for the entire Los Nietos Area. This \$150,000 from Congress is something we can all rally around as a community – something we can all be proud of,” concluded Sánchez.